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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/706,645

11/12/2003

Charles R. Rapier

1856-42801 (40183)

7027

31889 7590 04/24/2007
ConocoPhillips Company - I. P. Legal
P.O. Box 2443
Bartlesville, OK 74005

EXAMINER

WARTALOWICZ, PAUL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1754

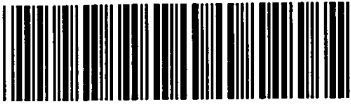
MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/24/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Application Number  | Application/Control No. 10/706,645 Paul Wartalowicz | Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination RAPIER ET AL. Art Unit 1754 |
| Document Code - AP.PRE.DEC | | |

Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review



This is in response to the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review filed _____.

1. ☐ **Improper Request** – The Request is improper and a conference will not be held for the following reason(s):

- ☐ The Notice of Appeal has not been filed concurrent with the Pre-Appeal Brief Request.
- ☐ The request does not include reasons why a review is appropriate.
- ☐ A proposed amendment is included with the Pre-Appeal Brief request.
- ☐ Other: _____

The time period for filing a response continues to run from the receipt date of the Notice of Appeal or from the mail date of the last Office communication, if no Notice of Appeal has been received.

2. ☒ **Proceed to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences** – A Pre-Appeal Brief conference has been held. The application remains under appeal because there is at least one actual issue for appeal. Applicant is required to submit an appeal brief in accordance with 37 CFR 41.37. The time period for filing an appeal brief will be reset to be one month from mailing this decision, or the balance of the two-month time period running from the receipt of the notice of appeal, whichever is greater. Further, the time period for filing of the appeal brief is extendible under 37 CFR 1.136 based upon the mail date of this decision or the receipt date of the notice of appeal, as applicable.

- ☐ The panel has determined the status of the claim(s) is as follows:
 Claim(s) allowed: _____
 Claim(s) objected to: _____
 Claim(s) rejected: 1-9,11-13,16-25,40,42-49,76,77,80,81,and 83-90.
 Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

3. ☐ **Allowable application** – A conference has been held. The rejection is withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance will be mailed. Prosecution on the merits remains closed. No further action is required by applicant at this time.

4. ☐ **Reopen Prosecution** – A conference has been held. The rejection is withdrawn and a new Office action will be mailed. No further action is required by applicant at this time.

All participants:

(1) Stanley Silverman

(2) Kathryn Berops

(3) Paul Wartalowicz

(4) _____